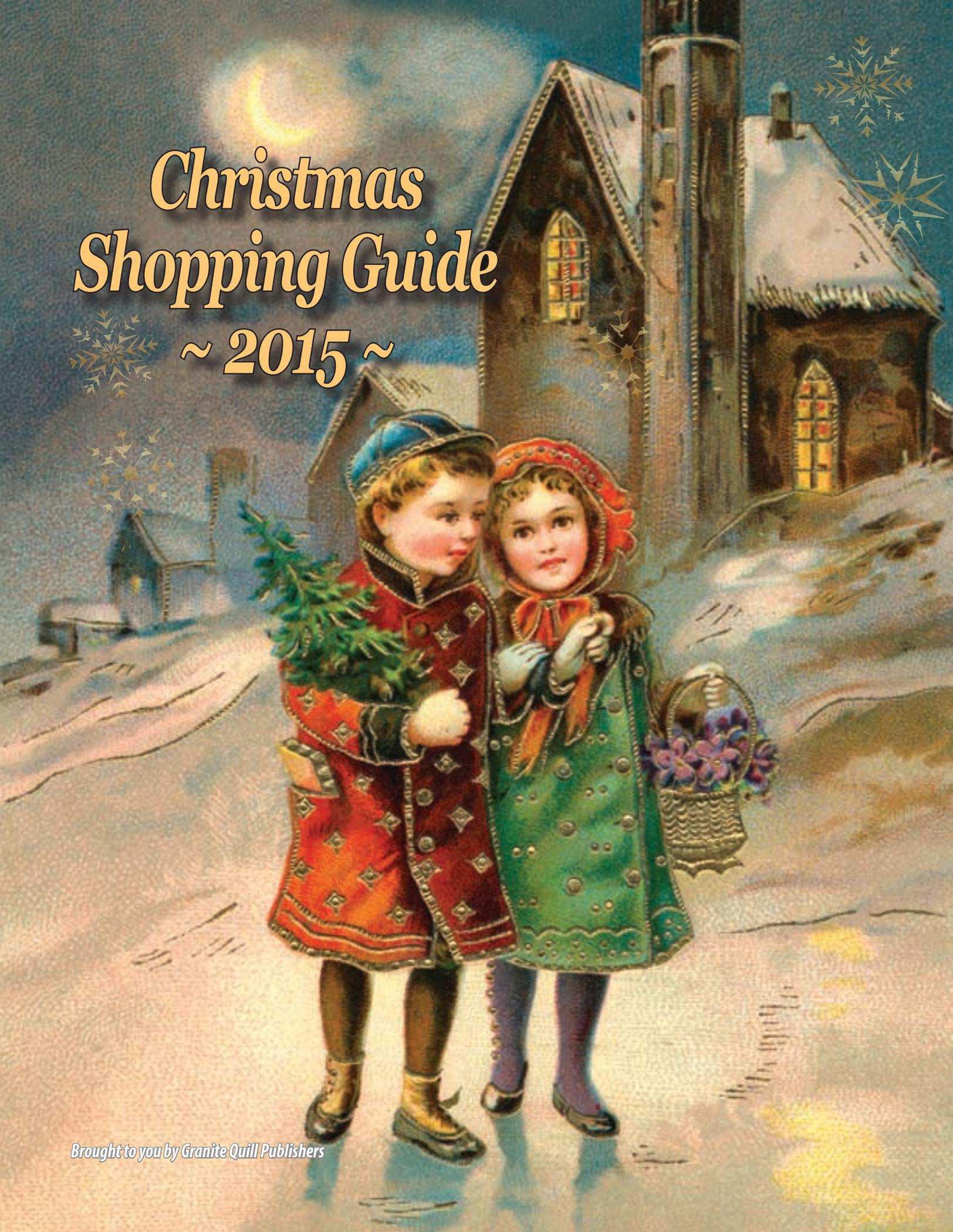


Christmas Shopping Guide

~ 2015 ~





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Journey to the North Pole prepares for 21st Season

Intervale, NH - Preparations have commenced for the 21st season of the Journey to the North Pole, the nation's original Polar Express Event. The Journey to the North Pole is a two hour round trip family adventure of a lifetime offering a truly unique experience that only happens here in the beautiful White Mountains of New Hampshire, with adventures departing from North Conway and Lincoln, NH.

Families will board the Journey to the North Pole train and be served delicious hot chocolate by our magical chefs, along with Santa's favorite chocolate nougat with centers as white as snow! When you arrive at the North Pole, you will depart from the train and follow the elves up to Santa's Toy Workshop where the little boy from the book, who has grown old, will read about his Journey to the North Pole. Then, Santa will take a break from his busy schedule to pay you a visit! This Journey will make true believers of all, reminding us that the gift of giving is truly the most cherished gift of all!

Many people are not aware that the Journey to the North Pole is organized by the Believe in Books Literacy Foundation,



as is its largest fundraiser. This event boosts the local economy by millions of dollars each year by sending their guests to local restaurants, lodging accommodations, shops, gas stations, and other services. The Literacy Foundation serves over 1600 households with their Outreach Reading Programs and has gifted over 2 million dollars' worth of literacy programs, scholarships, grants and book distributions throughout its history in Northern, NH and Western, ME.

The Believe in Books Literacy Foundation depends on volunteers year round to help with all of their events and Literacy Programs and continues to offer many opportunities to

get involved. Anyone interested in volunteering for this heart-warming event please visit www.journeytothenorthpole.org.

There are limited tickets still available for this year's Journey to the North Pole, which can be found online at www.journeytothenorthpole.org. Due to the event's popularity there was a pre-sale system put in place to allow more people to have a fair chance to purchase tickets. To better meet the demand for the Journey to the North Pole, trains depart from two different locations, the Hobo Railroad in Lincoln, NH and the Conway Scenic Railroad in North Conway, NH, each destined to the North Pole.

For ticket prices, departure schedule and more information visit www.journeytothenorthpole.org.

The 100 Acre Wood property which includes the Foundation office, the Theater in the Wood, and a trail system are located on Observatory Way in Intervale, NH, just two miles north of the Scenic Vista, directly across from Town Hall Road on the west side of Route 16. For more information call 603-356-9980 or visit www.journeytothenorthpole.org.

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6TH
9:00^{AM} - 1:00^{PM}

WEARE DUNKIN DONUTS
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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12TH
9:00^{AM} - 1:00^{PM}

HILLSBORO DUNKIN DONUTS
258 W. MAIN STREET, HILLSBORO, NH



Come get your picture taken with Santa!
He'll be in the store, deciding if you've been naughty or nice this year.
Bring your camera!

Strawbery Banke celebrates 36th Annual Candlelight Stroll

Strawbery Banke Museum celebrates the theme of "Winter Pastimes" during the 36th annual Candlelight Stroll, December 5-6, 12-13 and 19-20, 2015. The event takes place from 5 to 9 pm on Saturdays and 4 to 8 pm on Sundays. Candlelight Stroll is generously supported by the Lincoln Financial Group, FairPoint Communications, D.F.Richard, Sheraton Portsmouth Harborside Hotel, Newburyport Five Cents Savings, Amica Insurance, Northeast Credit Union, Optima Bank, York Hospital and R.M.Davis.

Showcasing 350 years of winter pastimes and holiday traditions against the backdrop of the Museum's furnished historic houses, Candlelight Stroll anchors the Vintage Christmas in Portsmouth experience, described

as the "Christmas capital of North America." On these weekend evenings, the Museum grounds glow with hundreds of lighted candle lanterns, the houses are adorned with thousands of hand-made decorations crafted from live greens, dried flowers and herbs collected from the Museum gardens, and the air is filled with the sound of holiday music and scent of woodsmoke. The Labrie Family Skate outdoor ice skating rink adds to the festive atmosphere, allowing Strollers to take a turn on the ice (skate rentals available) and hosting skaters in vintage costumes.

Visitors stroll from house to historic house, greeted by costumed role players and performers who recreate the traditions of times past. A toasty bonfire, hot cider in the Cider Shed and winter fare in the Figtree Kitchen café keep visitors warm. Traditional hearth-cooking demonstrations, crafts demonstrations, and winter projects for kids provide interactive fun for multiple generations. Pickwick's at the Banke presents a costumed holiday dining experience in Pitt Tavern (separate ticket required).

"Candlelight Stroll is a cherished holiday tradition that offers a charming setting for children and adults to enjoy America's

multicultural holiday activities and customs," said Strawbery Banke Museum president and CEO Lawrence J. Yerdon. "We are delighted to provide this authentic and unique experience."

Now in its 36th year, Strawbery Banke Museum's Candlelight Stroll carries visitors into holiday lives from the past as the 10-acre outdoor history museum and its 40 historic buildings recreate December through the centuries in the waterfront Portsmouth neighborhood of Puddle Dock. Thousands of decorations, hand-crafted from natural materials grown in the museum's gardens, flickering wood-and-glass candle lanterns, carolers around the bonfire and costumed role-players set the scene for "Winter Pastimes." Mrs. Shapiro prepares a Hanukah celebration her 1919 Russian Jewish kitchen. Mrs. Goodwin, her family and servants prepare a Victorian Christmas. The night watchman makes his rounds along the dirt lanes; and the Abbotts await news of their soldier fighting in Europe in the Second World War. Carolers, chestnuts and holiday crafts bring all the sounds, scents and moments for family 'stopfulness' to this event that is a cherished New Hampshire tradition. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$12.50 for children 5-17, and free to children under 5. ▶



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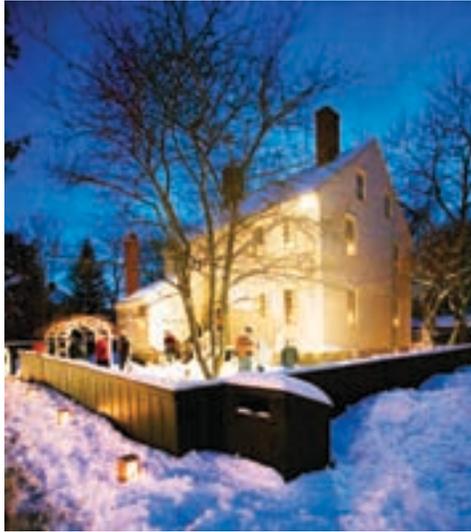
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Something for everyone on your list!

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- Dec. 3-4: 20% off jewelry
- Dec. 5-6: 20% off candles
- Dec. 7-8: 20% off Christmas Cards
- Dec. 9-10: 20% off pottery
- Dec. 11-12: 20% off gourmet food items
- Dec. 13-14: 20% off soaps & lotions
- Dec. 15: 20% off clothing
- Dec. 16: 20% off ornaments
- Dec. 17: 20% off toys
- Dec. 18: 20% off Christmas paper products
- Dec. 19: Henniker mugs -buy one 2nd 1/2 price

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Labrie Family Skate, the seasonal outdoor ice skating rink at the heart of the 10-acre living history museum site operates seven days a week, 9 am to 9 pm throughout December and on through New Year's Day, and the months of January and February. The outdoor ice skating rink offers 12,500 square feet of professionally maintained ice surface surrounded by a post and rail fence. A seasonal pavilion houses ticketing, skate rentals and concessions.

Pickwick's at the Banke, complements the museum with a shopping experience reflecting Portsmouth's colonial maritime heritage. The



museum store is located at 43 Atkinson Street (on the corner of Court and Atkinson) is open to the public with no museum ticket is required. Described as a 'magical space' featuring local art, artisans and products; Pickwick's at the Banke is designed to be a nostalgic space that's accessible to a new generation. The merchandise, the

atmosphere and the hospitality of the costumed staff – especially in full-blown Victorian holiday splendor – make shopping more than a pastime. On the six nights of Candlelight Stroll, Pickwick's and Chef Evan Mallett present a costumed holiday dining experience in the museum's historic Pitt Tavern.

Parking & Other Information

There is ONLY handicapped parking available at the Museum for Candlelight Stroll. All other visitors should take advantage of the City of Portsmouth free Vintage Christmas Trolley which runs on a 20-minute loop, from 1:30pm - 10:30pm on the first three Saturdays and Sundays in December*. With pick up spots at parking lots, hotels and other sites around town, the trolley stops right at Strawberry Banke Museum as well as The Music Hall. *The free Vintage Christmas trolley will be in the City of Portsmouth Holiday Parade on Saturday, December 5 and will not be available from 5-7pm.

The trolley is generously provided by the City of Portsmouth as part of a Vintage Christmas in Portsmouth. Candlelight Stroll is a signature event of Vintage Christmas in Portsmouth a collaboration among the City of Portsmouth, Strawberry Banke Museum, The Music Hall, the Greater Portsmouth Chamber of Commerce and local hotels and retail shops. Now in its 11th year Vintage Christmas in Portsmouth caused Travel + Leisure to say Portsmouth has good reason to claim the title of "Christmas Capital of North America" and the Boston Globe said Vintage Christmas in Portsmouth is "One of the top ten holiday things not to miss in New England." For complete details of the Vintage Christmas events please visit the Vintage Christmas website.

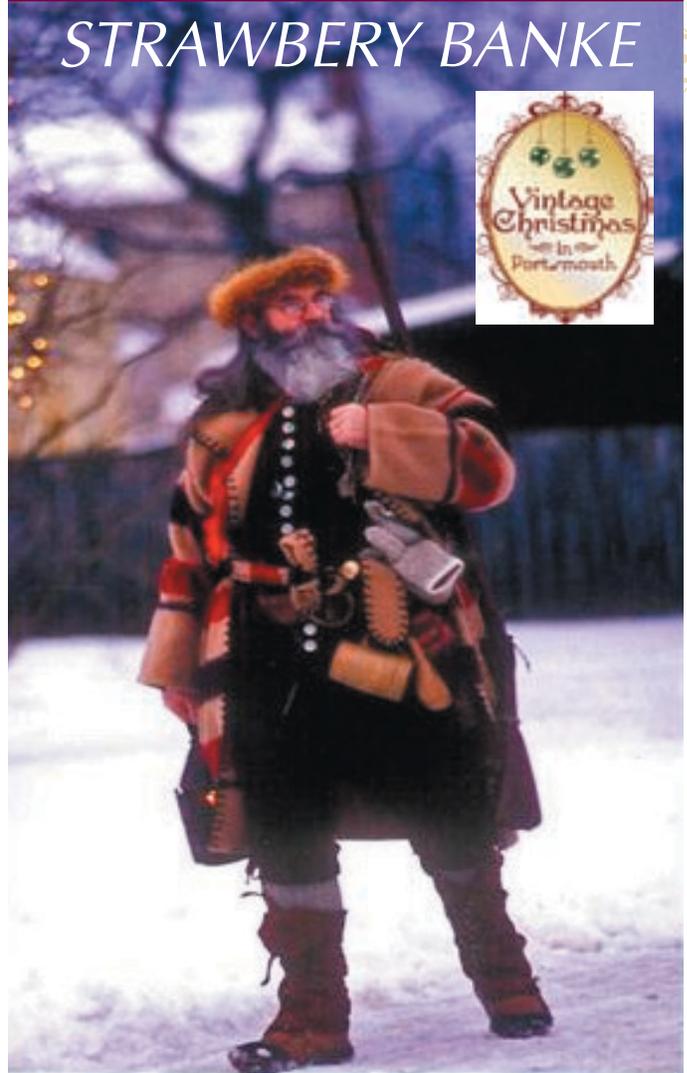
Guided Holiday House Tours, weekdays, Dec 26-31

Guided tours of decorated historic houses at Strawberry Banke Museum are offered from 10am to 2 pm during the holiday week. Adults \$15, children 5-17 \$10, children under 5 free.

First Night Portsmouth, Dec 31

Labrie Family Skate participates in the First Night Portsmouth button program, allowing a discount for those with the button.

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www.strawberrybanke.org

Christmas Trees

Most Popular Christmas Trees

Here's a breakdown of popular evergreens suitable for use as cut Christmas trees, (excerpted from gardening.about.com):

The first consideration when selecting a tree for Christmas is usually aesthetics. However, some evergreens hold up throughout the season better than others.

■ **Balsam Fir or Canaan Fir** - It is usually the most reasonably priced and abundant cut tree. Dark green with a slight silvery cast, Balsams have short, flat, needles that are long lasting. Very fragrant when first cut.

■ **Colorado Blue Spruce** - They range in color from dark green to powdery blue, with stiff 1 to 3 inch needles. The needles can be so stiff they scratch, so be careful when handling.

Good needle retention, but they will drop in a warm room.

■ **Douglas Fir** - A beautiful, full dark green to blue variety. It holds its needles well and is very fragrant.

■ **Norway Spruce** - Pretty tree with poor needle retention.

■ **Scotch Pine** - This is one of the most popular Christmas trees. The branches are stiff with ridged, dark green needles that hold for four weeks and don't drop when dry. As a bonus, Scotch Pine has a nice, lasting aroma.

■ **White Fir or Concolor Fir** - This Fir is relatively new as a Christmas tree and becoming increasingly popular. The blue-green needles are 1/2 to 1-1/2 inches long with both a nice aroma and good needle retention. A very attractive tree.

■ **White Spruce** - Similar to the Colorado Blue Spruce, this pretty, bluish green native of the Northern U.S. holds its needles well, but they have an unpleasant odor when crushed.

■ **White Pine** - White Pines are having a difficult time right now. When healthy, they will retain their blue green needles throughout the holiday season. They make a very full Christmas tree.



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www.therocks.org



Holiday magic returns to The Rocks Estate this season

**Farm opens for shopping November 2,
for Christmas trees November 21**



BETHLEHEM, N.H. - There's no better place to get into the holiday spirit than Christmas Lane, address of The Rocks Estate. With row upon row of perfect Christmas trees, a fire pit for munching s'mores and sipping cocoa, two shops filled with gifts and decorations, horse-drawn wagon rides and its very own Green Father Christmas, The Rocks is brimming with holiday magic.

The Rocks Marketplace and the Gift Shop open for early shoppers Nov. 3 and will be open 10 a.m.-4 p.m. daily through Christmas Eve. Christmas tree shoppers may select a tree from the farm's retail lot or wander the fields to Cut-Your-Own Christmas tree beginning Nov. 22. The Rocks will be closed Thanksgiving Day, but otherwise open daily through Dec. 24.

"Each year we welcome new customers and visitors who return every Christmas, year after year, to find their tree at The Rocks," said Rocks Estate Manager Nigel Manley. "We love being part of the holiday traditions of so many families. It's impossible not to get swept up into the joy and magic of the season when you're here."

In addition to Christmas trees, The Rocks also offers an array of classic and whimsically decorated handmade wreaths, garland, ornaments, and Christmas tree accessories. The farm boasts two shops, brimming with unique gift items and holiday décor.

"There really is something for everyone in our shops, and we try to balance proven favorites and exciting new items when we stock the shelves each year" said shop manager Carleen Quinn. "We're proud to offer a high percentage of locally and regionally made items, including many from area crafters and artisans, as well as American-made goods from a bit further afield."

The Marketplace is filled with an array of U.S.A.-made and locally-crafted items, from home goods and holiday decorations to jewelry and hand-made soaps, including hundreds of new Christmas ornaments. Marketplace favorites include the selection of Ginger Cottages, handcrafted in Virginia and complete with display lights, as well as a line of wine and cocktail glasses etched with moose images, and designer bottles of maple syrup.

New this year are beautiful Advent calendars depicting classic New England scenes, whose artful appeal will extend beyond the holiday season. Offerings by local crafters and artisans extend from New

Hampshire-themed chocolates and unique preserves to handmade soaps and pottery.

The Gift Shop shelves are filled with Rocks maple syrup, as well as ornaments, decorations, and tee-shirts. Both shops are open daily (closed Thanksgiving Day) beginning Nov. 3, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

The Rocks opens for the Christmas tree season Nov. 22. Weekend visitors will find a variety of festive activities, from horse-drawn wagon rides through the beautiful historic Estate to roasting marshmallows around the fire pit and visiting with The Rocks' own Green Father Christmas.

Wagon rides will be offered Nov. 21, Nov. 27-29, Dec. 5, 6, 12, 13, and Dec. 19. Father Christmas will be at the farm visiting with shoppers and presenting fir tree seedlings to children Saturdays from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

The Rocks will again be supporting the Trees For Troops program and its national campaign to deliver 17,000 farm-grown Christmas trees to members of the United States military and their families at home and abroad this holiday season.

Can't make a trip to The Rocks this season? Don't fret; the shopper-friendly Rocks Estate online store offers a variety of Christmas trees and holiday wreaths, along with ornaments, garland, and tree accessories, as well as The Rocks' own maple syrup. All items include free shipping, and customers may create a holiday wish list and ship to multiple addresses with one order. Mail order shopping is open through Dec. 15.

The Rocks Estate has been featured in media outlets from the Boston Globe and Martha Stewart's Living to WMUR's Chronicle, Good Morning America and Yankee Magazine.

The Rocks is the North Country Conservation and Education Center of the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests ([HYPERLINK "http://www.forestsociety.org/"](http://www.forestsociety.org/) www.forestsociety.org). The Forest Society is a non-profit membership organization founded in 1901 to protect the state's most important landscapes and promote wise use of its natural resources.

The landmark 1,400-acre Rocks Estate includes numerous buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places and offers Agri- and Eco-tourism opportunities throughout the year. For more information please visit [HYPERLINK "http://www.therocks.org/"](http://www.therocks.org/) www.therocks.org For reservations and other inquiries e-mail [HYPERLINK "mailto:info@therocks.org"](mailto:info@therocks.org) info@therocks.org or call 603-444-6228.



Christmas Trees

Top tips for Christmas tree decorating

Now that you've found your perfect tree that will showcase all of your lovely Christmas decorations, it's time to get decorating! So where to begin?

First, determine the overall look you're trying to achieve. If it is simplicity you're going after, stick to one or two colors and start with stringing your lights. Add on decorations and ornaments slowly and as you see fit. If your style is more dramatic and colorful, outline your plan of attack first, lay out all of your decorations and go one step at a time.

Generally, follow this order to get the best overall look out of a Christmas tree. First, start with the lights. Go from the base of the tree

and wrap the lights all the way to the top. Use one or many colored strands this is entirely your preference. It's best to use about 100 lights for every vertical foot of tree.

Next, it's time to layer on your tree garlands. Again, there are no rules on keeping all the garlands the same; uniformity is not the name of the game here. This time, start stringing from the top down, and make sure to space the garlands out evenly and hang loosely on your tree. From ribbons to beads to tinsel, use about 2 strands of garland per foot of tree length.

Now it's time for the best part: the ornaments! Start with hanging your most important ones, then go on to the largest ones and then finally fill in the gaps with small and medium size "fillers" such as icicles or shiny balls. Create depth in your tree décor by hanging your ornaments both on the branch tips and closer to the trunk.

Most importantly, have fun with the process. There is no right or wrong in tree decorating and you can always move things around to your liking. So gather the family, spin those CD's, sip that mulled cider and get decorating!



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Gift wrapping trends for everyone on your holiday list

'Tis the season for gift giving. As shoppers make their holiday gift lists and check them twice, it's not necessarily what's on the inside that counts. The presentation makes the first impression and how the gifts look on the outside is often what builds the most excitement and makes them memorable.

"Make your wraps almost too good to tear open and show your friends and loved ones that you went the extra mile to personalize their presents," said Jenni Radosevich, DIY expert and founder of I Spy DIY. "Using the right tools - such as a sharp pair of scissors and Scotch GiftWrap Tape that disappears onto the paper - helps create the perfect basic wrap that you can take to the next level with personalized embellishments."

Starting with a basic wrap gives you a blank canvas to get creative, and whether it's a simple or complex embellishment, it doesn't have to be expensive. Radosevich suggests these trends to make holiday gifts merry and bright with adornments for every generation:



■ **Family fashionista:** Rip the hottest colors and trends from the fashion runways to add unforgettable style to your gifts. Bring the popular fringe look to life by creating fringe tassels out of colored raffia and tie them around wrapped gifts.

■ **Tech-savvy teen:** Hashtags and emojis aren't just for your smartphone. Re-create your favorite emojis cutting shapes out of construction paper and using double-sided

tape to create faces, or create rubber stamps to add them to the gifts in a repeating pattern.

■ **For sweet kids:** Give young ones an extra special treat by using candy in place of bows and ribbons. Wrap with solid paper and tie bakers twine around the gift. Try sugar sticks or candy canes to make fun shapes or use a small piece of twine to pinch the center of a fun-sized candy bag to look like a bow that tops the gift.

■ **Blissful newlyweds:** Add to their growing collection of personalized gifts with a wrap that pays homage to their union. Create textured monograms by cutting letters out of felt or faux fur to not only enhance the wrap, but also replace the traditional sticker label.

■ **Beloved grandparents:** Create a throwback to simpler times with a chic black and white color scheme. Wrap the gift in solid black or white paper and embellish with tissue paper or coffee filters to add texture. Family Features

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Admission \$5 per person, \$20 family max.

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18 Highlawn Rd, Warner, NH 603-456-2600, IndianMuseum.org



Winter wine and spirits fit for a celebration

The highlight of the holiday season is often the gathering of friends and family for a seasonal meal. Whether hosting and planning a full menu or attending a holiday get-together, keep in mind the perfect wine and spirit pairings for either a traditional feast or a more modern soiree featuring a variety of hors d'oeuvres.

Wines, such as La Crema Chardonnay and Liberated's Cabernet, and spirits or liqueurs, can serve as more than just a terrific accompaniment to your holiday spread; they also make great gifts for those wine connoisseurs and liquor aficionados on your shopping list.

The Perfect Accompaniment to Any Celebration



An elegant choice for your favorite hostess or connoisseur, this limited production La Crema Chardonnay is a true expression of the Russian River Valley in Northern California. Complex and nuanced, with flavors of ripe pear, nutmeg and hints of nougat, this lush wine is the perfect accompaniment to any holiday celebration and pairs

well with roast chicken, creamy cheeses or seafood. Learn more about La Crema and hands-on, artisan winemaking techniques at lacrema.com.

Reach Your Potential with Something Different



Liberated wines are for anyone looking for something a little different, whether for themselves or as a gift. This new collection celebrates individuals that break free from boundaries to reach their full potential with nine

stunning labels, all featuring a unique personality archetype. The Cabernet is a favorite for the holidays with hints of black cherry, a rich, silky texture and three labels to choose from: the Explorer, the Business Man and the Adventurer. Learn more at liberatedwine.com.

The Art of Chocolate in a Bottle

One brand is recognized all over the world as the ultimate expression of the art of chocolate - Godiva. Belgian Master Chocolatier Joseph Draps developed a unique rich chocolate with unparalleled smoothness more than 80 years ago, and Godiva Chocolate Liqueur is the ultimate embodiment of the original chocolate collection. Each bottle combines chocolate



with enticing flavors from around the world that mix well with a variety of spirits. Find more ways to enjoy Godiva Chocolate Liqueur at godivaliqueurs.com.

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The Toadstool Bookshops

We can help you find the perfect books, calendars, CDs and DVDs for everyone on your Christmas list

Here are a few suggestions:

SUSPENDED WORLDS: HISTORIC THEATER SCENERY IN NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND by Christine Hadsel - This is a glorious celebration of the painted curtains hanging in the town halls, small opera houses, and Grange Halls through out our area including Hancock and Washington, NH. Hadsel and her organization "Curtains Without Borders" have been documenting these art pieces and have restored hundreds of them to their rightful place at the center of community life.



IN THE EVIL DAY: VIOLENCE COMES TO ONE SMALL TOWN by Richard Carey. In 1997 local carpenter Carl Drega terrorized the northern town of Colebrook, NH shooting and killing four people in an act of revenge against what he perceived as governmental interference in his personal life. Richard Carey's book is a gripping account of the event and of the lives of the people involved.



WELCOME TO FROST HEAVES: YOU CAN'T GET THERE FROM HERE by Ken Sheldon better known as the Fred Marple character in the hilarious "Frost Heaves" performances. In this book Fred Marple takes readers on a delightful romp through the imaginary town of Frost Heaves.



THE SOUL OF AN OCTOPUS: A PLAYFUL EXPLORATION INTO THE WONDER OF CONSCIOUSNESS and for kids **THE OCTOPUS SCIENTISTS** both by Sy Montgomery - Hancock author Sy has found her favorite new creature and in these books shares her fascination with the octopus a surprisingly complex, intelligent, and spirited creature and the remarkable connections it makes with humans.



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among globally sold distilled spirits. Its distinctive creamy taste comes from a blend of Irish whiskey, fresh double cream and other ingredients. Baileys' award-winning recipe, which now also includes Vanilla Cinnamon, Chocolate Cherry, Salted Caramel and Espresso Creme, is perfect as a ready-to-serve cocktail or mixed with coffee. Find out more at baileys.com.

How to Age Wine Gracefully

Whether you plan to store that wine you received as a gift for weeks, months or years, here are a few tips to ensure your wine ages well:

■ **Store bottles on their sides.** The cork can dry out and crack if not in contact with wine.

■ **Keep bottles between 55-65 F.** The perfect cellar temperature to store wine is 55 F. Cooler temperatures can slow the aging process.

■ **Keep humidity between 60-80 percent.** Low humidity can cause



evaporation and oxidation while high humidity encourages mold.

■ **Keep temperature swings to a minimum.** Temperature fluctuation causes wine to expand and contract, damaging the cork.

■ **Store in a dark place.** Light exposure can cause wine proteins to become hazy and also cause aroma and flavor change.

■ **Store in a location free of odor and vibration.** Vibration can hinder wine's de-

velopment and odors can seep in through the cork.

Serve Spirits Like a Pro

Spirits can be served in a variety of ways, and different people prefer their drinks certain ways, so when entertaining this holiday season it is important to be familiar with some of the most common serving techniques:

■ **Neat:** When spirits are served and consumed at room temperature with nothing added.

■ **On the rocks:** When spirits are served and drunk over ice.

■ **Up:** When spirits are shaken or stirred with ice or chilled but drunk with the ice filtered out.

■ **With a mixer:** Some spirits lend themselves well to mixing, with ingredients such as tonic water, cola or juice.

■ **With a twist:** When spirits are served with a thin strip of citrus peel, traditionally lemon, on the rim of the glass. Family Features

DOWNTON ABBEY CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS






ABBEY PULL BELL TELEPHONE GRAMOPHONE




TEAPOT SET SHADOW BOX

ALSO AVAILABLE - CASTLE GLASS BALL, 1ST THREE SEASONS GLASS ORNAMENTS, ANTIQUE BRASS STOCKING HOLDER, 18" STOCKINGS

Tatwell Gallery
255 Newport Road ~ New London, NH ~ 526-2910

Lebanon Art & Crafts Association
43rd Christmas Show & Sale



Locally Made and Unique Items You Cannot Find Anywhere Else!

November 18 through December 24, 2015
Monday through Saturday 10 am to 8 pm
Sunday 10 am to 6 pm

I-91, Exit 20
Same location as last year!
Behind Shaw's Powerhouse Plaza
66 Benning Street
West Lebanon, NH
Watch for our Lebanon Art & Crafts flag



For a map and show details visit:
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purses and tote bags • vintage Kimono scarves • local honey • and more!